



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,164	04/25/2000	William J. Dally	2789.2004-001	9280

21005 7590 02/27/2004

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.
530 VIRGINIA ROAD
P.O. BOX 9133
CONCORD, MA 01742-9133

EXAMINER

BAYARD, EMMANUEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2631

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/557,164

Applicant(s)

DALLY ET AL.

Examiner

Emmanuel Bayard

Art Unit

2631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to requests for reconsideration filed on 4/25/00 in which claims 1-66 are pending. The requests have been considered but they are moot based on the new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371[©] of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11, 18-20, 23, 24, 33-36, 39-40, 43, 50-52, 55-56, 65-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harvey et al U.S. Patent No 6,657,936 B2 .

As per claims 1, 33 and 65 Harvey et al teaches a data transmitter comprising: a data input (see fig. 6 element 602); plural delay elements applying different delays to the data input in

parallel to provide plural delayed data signals (see fig.6 elements 604a-604e and col.7, lines 65-67); a multiplexer is the same as the claimed (data output combining) the delayed data signals (see fig.6 element 612 and col.2, lines 55-67 and col.8, lines 7-30) a transition time a transition time of the data output being determined by difference (see col.8, lines 55-57) in delays applied to the data input.

As per claims 2, 34 the data transmitter of Harvey et al does include parallel delay connection (see fig.6).

As per claims 3, 35 the data transmitter of Harvey et al does include a clock signal applied the delay elements and different delays and applied to the data input (see fig.6 element 506 and col.7, lines 52-55).

As per claims 4, 8, 20, 24, 36, 40, 52 and 56, the data transmitter of Harvey et al inherently includes a plural driver circuits.

As per claims 7, 39 the data transmitter of Harvey et al inherently includes parallel data input.

As per claims 11, 43, the data transmitter of Harvey et al inherently includes data output is proportional to bit time.

As per claims 18, 50 and 66, Harvey et al teaches a data transmitter comprising: a data input (see fig. 6 element 602); a bit clock (see fig.6 element 506 and col.7, lines 52-56); a delay cell (see fig.6 elements 604a-604e and col.7, lines 65-67 and col.8, lines 1-30) is considered as the claimed (transition time control) for receiving the data input and providing a controlled data signal, the transition time control controlling the transition time of the controlled signal to be proportional to bit time of the bit clock (see col.2, lines 55-67). When the delay stage is enable

a clock signal will pass therefore generating a time period which is considered as the claimed (the transition time control controlling the transition time of the controlled signal to be proportional to bit time of the bit clock).

As per claims 19 and 51, the data transmitter of Harvey et al does include a clock signal applied the delay elements and different delays and applied to the data input (see fig.6).

As per claims 23 and 55 the data transmitter of Harvey et al does include parallel data input.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5-6, 9-10, 12-17, 21-22, 25-32, 37-38, 41-42, 44-49, 53-54, 57-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harvey et al U.S. Patent No 6,657,936 B2 in view of Bae U.S. Patent No 6,242,960 B1.

As per claims 5, 9, 21, 25, 37, 41, 53 and 57 Harvey et al disclose all the features of the claimed invention except each delay having CMOS invertors.

Bae teaches delay having CMOS invertors (see fig.1 elements 146-158 and col.3, lines 17-18, 45-48).

It would have been obvious to one skill in the art to incorporate the CMOS invertors of Bae into Harvey et al as to invert the phase of the reference clock signal as taught by Bae (see col.3, lines 36-37).

As per claims 6, 10, 22, 26, 38, 42, 54 and 58, the transmitter of Bae does include a loading device which is functionally equivalent to the claimed (load capacitance) (see col.4, lines 47-60). Furthermore implementing such loading into Harvey et al would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as to control the provided power supply into the transistors.

As per claims 13, 16, 28, 31, 45, 48, 60, 63 Harvey et al disclose all the features of the claimed invention except a circuit to control power supply voltage to the delay elements, the circuit comprising: a first and second delay elements, each receiving a common clock signal and a phase comparator which compares the outputs of the first and second delay elements and control a supply voltage applied to the first and second delay elements to control phase difference of the outputs.

Bae teaches a circuit to control power supply voltage to the delay elements (see fig. 1 element 130), the circuit comprising: a first and second delay elements (see fig.1 elements 144, 154), each receiving a common clock signal (see fig.1 element BCLK) and a logic unit is considered as the claimed (phase comparator) (see fig.1 element 162) which compares the outputs of the first and second delay elements and control a supply voltage applied to the first and second delay elements to control phase difference of the outputs (see col.3, lines 65-67 and col.4, lines 11-16 and col.5, lines 43- col.6, lines 1-13).

It would have been obvious to one skill in the art to implement the circuit of Bae into Harvey et al as to generate a pulse signal which is activated in response to a rising edge of the

Art Unit: 2631

first delayed clock signal and deactivated in response to the falling edge of the second delayed clock signal as taught by Bae (see col.5, lines 45-50).

As per claims 12, 15, 27, 30, 44, 47, 59, 62, the circuit of Bae does include a supply voltage (see fig.2 elements VSS or Vdd or Vref). Furthermore implementing such voltage to control the delay elements into Harvey et al would have been obvious to one skilled in the art as to monitor when the level of external clock signal falls below the level of the reference voltage.

As per claims 14, 17, 29, 32, 46, 49, 61 and 64, the transmitter of Harvey et al does include a first and second delay elements having a sequence of n elements and a clock signal frequency (see fig.6).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Bayard whose telephone number is (703) 308-9573. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad H. Ghayour, can be reached on (703) 306-3034. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

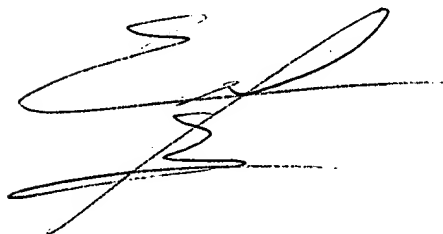
Application/Control Number: 09/557,164
Art Unit: 2631

Page 7

Emmanuel Bayard

Primary Examiner

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EB', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line extending to the right.